



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Oregon Youth Authority
Director's Office
530 Center Street NE, Suite 200
Salem, OR 97301-3765
PHONE: (503) 373-7212
FAX: (503) 373-7622

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NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Ann Snyder, OYA Communications Office, 503-378-6023,
ann.snyder@oya.state.or.us

New Trask River High School building dedicated in Tillamook

A new high school serving youth offenders at two Oregon Youth Authority facilities in Tillamook was dedicated Wednesday with speakers applauding its correctional values, economic benefits and “green” features.

Trask River High School, a \$1.25-million project financed primarily by state Go Oregon! stimulus dollars, serves the 50-bed Tillamook Youth Correctional Facility and 25-bed Camp Tillamook.

The school, built at a savings because of the recession, created 31 jobs, kept 21 other people working and brought business to 20 Oregon vendors, 13 subcontractors and three minority, women and emerging small businesses. Tillamook firms did the excavation and provided lumber, concrete and other building materials. Local businesses also provided lodging, meals, gasoline, and other goods and services to workers.

“All of the costs of the project were spent in Oregon, and much of the money was spent locally,” said Oregon Senator Betsy Johnson, whose district includes the two Tillamook facilities.

In addition to the economic benefits, the new facility will improve the educational experience for youth attending the school, noted OYA Director Colette S. Peters.

“Our vision is that every youth who leaves the Oregon Youth Authority will be crime-free,” said Peters. “All of our youth have great potential, and often it’s OYA that provides the chance to meet that potential. This new facility will offer a better physical environment for our youth to concentrate on their studies.”

The building offers six classrooms and holds administrative offices, restrooms, and central control and camera monitoring, replacing four self-contained classrooms adjacent to living and treatment units.

For the first time, offenders at the two Tillamook correctional facilities will have the “going to school” experience of walking to a separate building, will be issued separate schedules to meet individual academic needs, and will be able to enroll in online post-secondary coursework. The accredited year-round school, operated by the Tillamook School District through a contract with the Oregon Department of Education, conferred high school diplomas on 37 graduates in the past year.

“Our goal with this new facility is to provide a more traditional high school setting,” said Tillamook School District Superintendent Randy Schild.

Education combined with evidence-based treatment is key to helping offenders return to the community as productive, law-abiding citizens, noted Peters.

“With an education you have a chance, and without an education you have an uphill climb,” said Schild.

The building also boasts solid “green” credentials designed to reduce long-term operating costs. The building’s green features include maximization of day-lighting; site orientation that allows for solar shading and permits the building to operate without air-conditioning; protection from prevailing winds; low-flow fixtures and faucets; high-energy forced-air gas heating and ventilation; windows that open for ventilation; roof and wall insulation that exceed code; and at least 20 percent materials containing recycled content.

The project’s contractor was 2KG Contractors Inc. of Portland, using the architectural work of DLR Group Architecture and Planning Inc. of Portland.

The mission of the Oregon Youth Authority is to protect the public and reduce crime by holding youth offenders accountable and providing opportunities for reformation in safe environments. OYA has custody of approximately 900 offenders ages 12-24 in correctional and transitional facilities in Albany, Burns, Florence, Grants Pass, La Grande, Salem, Tillamook, Warrenton and Woodburn, and supervises approximately 1,100 youth on probation and parole in communities throughout Oregon.

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